was enhanced from 2% to 4% of the cost of the scheme with effect from 1.4.2007 and has now been further enhanced to 6% from 1.4.2009. States have been directed to ensure that adequate number of works are available to meet the labour demand.

(e) Activities which are permissible under NREGA are listed in their order of priority in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act. Number of words of different categories taken up under the scheme so far are as under:

Activity	Total works taken up in 2006-07	Total works taken up in 2007-08	Total works taken up in 2008-09	Total works taken up in 2009-10 (up to May, 09)
Rural connectivity	180049	308091	491044	301385
Flood control and protection	17905	51125	95053	38809
Water conservation and water harvesting	267760	473480	579075	393461
Drought proofing	77580	125229	1927784	127149
Micro irrigation works	28060	90484	144590	92256
Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by SC/ST/BPL/IAY beneficiaries	80894	262709	556412	357040
Renovation of traditional water bodies	60415	133327	239403	180698
Land development	89192	287731	397160	237309

Pension for old, widows and disabled

1933. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for increasing the amount paid under Old Age Pension Scheme, Widow Pension Scheme and Pension for Disabled; and

(b) if so, the mechanism Government has adopted to ensure that it reaches to all eligible, especially women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase the amount of central assistance of Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary being provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).

(b) States have been asked to identify all eligible beneficiaries both in rural areas from BPL List 2002 and from corresponding lists in urban areas. States have also been asked to disburse the pension under IGNOAPS through bank/post office account, where feasible. In case of IGNWPS and IGNDPS disbursement through bank/post office has been made compulsory to ensure that it reaches all eligible beneficiaries.

PMGSY in Kerala

1934. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Kerala in the last three years;

(b) the amount spent so far;

(c) the reasons for not spending a major portion of the sanctioned amount; and

(d) the steps Government would take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Amount released to State of Kerala under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 2006-07 to 2008-09 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount released
2006-07	15.00
2007-08	24.68
2008-09	84.02

(b) Since inception of the programme Rs. 321.05 crore has been released to Kerala. The cumulative expenditure incurred under the scheme upto 30th June, 2009 is Rs. 251.82 crore.

(c) Inadequate executing capacity, delay in tendering of Phase-VI and Phase-VII and poor response of bidders are the major reasons for slow progress under the scheme.

(d) As per PMGSY Guidelines, implementation of the PMGSY is the responsibility of the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised to expedite the pace of execution of projects. On the part of the Ministry the following steps have been taken to facilitate timely completion of works under PMGSY.

- State Governments have been advised to augment executing capacity.
- Bidding document provision have been rationalized to enlarge the pool of eligible contractors. Flexibility has been given to the States to float packages above Rs. 10 crore and to permit joint ventures between big and small contractors.
- Delay in tendering and award of works also results in time overrun in execution of projects. In order to address this delay, State Governments have been advised to take